

Be A Voter

November 8

Voter Information Handbook

A Guide to State Referenda
and Voting Procedures in Rhode Island

General Election

November 8, 2016



elections@sos.ri.gov



401.222.2340



www.sos.ri.gov



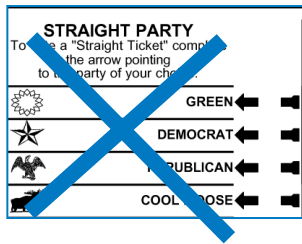
@RISecState



Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State



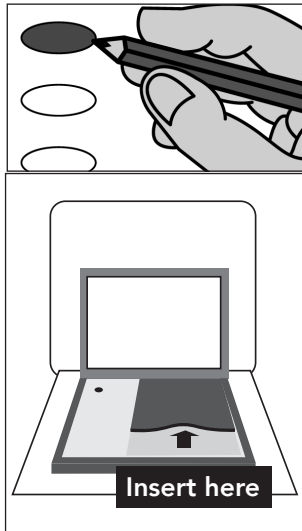
What's new in 2016?



No Straight Party Voting

In 2014, Rhode Island eliminated straight party voting. This means that instead of picking one party at the top of your ballot to vote for all of the candidates within that party, you must vote for each candidate running for office individually.

Be prepared by previewing your sample ballot to familiarize yourself with all of the races in your city or town. You can see your sample ballot at vote.ri.gov.



New Voting Equipment

Voting equipment is Democracy's infrastructure and this November you will see new voting machines in your polling location. In many ways, the process of voting will be the same. You will still cast your vote using a paper ballot. The only difference is that instead of connecting an arrow, you will fill in an oval.

When you are finished filling out your ballot, you will insert it into the new ballot tabulator and be notified instantly that your vote was counted. If there is an issue with your ballot, the machine will alert you and your local poll worker. This gives you the opportunity to recast your vote and make sure your vote is counted and your voice is heard.

Electronic Poll Books Pilot Program

Electronic poll books, also known as ePoll books, are tablets that contain the voter lists for each city and town. These tablets will eventually replace the large printed binders currently used for checking voters in at their polling locations. Printed binders require voters to stand in line according to the first letter in their last name and increase the wait time at polling places. With ePoll books, voters will be checked in more quickly and efficiently.

This year, the state will launch a pilot program in a total of 50 polling locations in the following communities:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| › Bristol | › North Kingstown | › Richmond |
| › Burrillville | › North Providence | › Warwick |
| › Cranston | › North Smithfield | › Westerly |
| › Cumberland | › Pawtucket | › West Greenwich |
| › East Providence | › Portsmouth | › West Warwick |
| › Middletown | › Providence | |



Dear Rhode Island Voter:

Election Day is just a few weeks away! **I am sending you this guide to make it easy for you to be informed, be engaged, and be a voter on November 8.**

Government policies impact your everyday life. Voting is the easiest way for you to have some control over important policy decisions. From education to taxation, your vote for leaders in local, state and federal government matters. This election matters!

Your guide contains the information you need to be an informed voter on November 8. I have added a voter checklist on page 19 to help you remember your choices and key information as you head to the polls. Remember, this is not just your opportunity to vote for President of the United States. You will also be asked to vote for members of Congress, state and local leaders, as well as on a number of important ballot questions. Your vote, when added to all those who join you in voting, will have an impact on your life and the lives of those you love.

Statewide, there are seven questions for you to approve or reject, including five questions that authorize the state to borrow money for capital projects. In this guide, I have included short explanations of each of these questions (see page 9) and I encourage you to contact my office if you need more information.

Locally, there are 27 communities in which you may also be asked to approve or reject municipal ballot questions. While voters in North Providence and Narragansett have only one municipal ballot question, voters in Westerly will be asked to vote on 35 municipal questions. Help us keep poll lines short by viewing your sample ballot prior to Election Day. It's easy to view your sample ballot on your cell phone or your computer by going to our online Voter Information Center (vote.ri.gov). You can also call your local board of canvassers for more information about local ballot questions.

As your Secretary of State, I am committed to engaging and empowering all Rhode Islanders to help move our great state forward. Your vote is absolutely critical to the state's success. Please help me get this information to as many people as possible by sharing it with your friends and family. This guide is also available on our website (sos.ri.gov).

If you need additional information, please contact our Elections Division at 401-222-2340, TTY 711; visit us during normal business hours at 148 West River Street in Providence; or write us at elections@sos.ri.gov.

See you at the polls November 8 – Be A Voter!

Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

P.S. Be sure to follow us on Twitter (@RISecState) and on Facebook (RIDepartmentOfState)!

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Rhode Island Department of State prepared this handbook with the help of the Budget Office of the RI Department of Administration, individual state agencies and counsel. We greatly appreciate their time and effort.

WARNING

Voter fraud is a felony and may be punishable by a fine and/or a jail sentence. You must be registered to vote from your actual place of residence.



Esta guía esta disponible en español en
nuestra página de internet:
www.sos.ri.gov/elections

Be Prepared for Election Day



Find your polling place

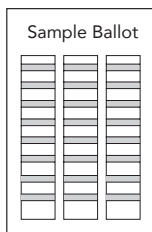
Your polling place is determined by your place of residence. You can find out where to vote by:



Visiting the Voter Information Center at
vote.ri.gov

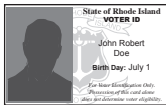


Calling your local board of canvassers.
See **page 20** for contact information.



Preview a sample ballot

Your choice of candidates varies by where you live. Locally, there are 27 communities in which you will be asked to approve or reject municipal ballot questions. You can see a sample of your local ballot by visiting the online Voter Information Center at vote.ri.gov.



Bring a valid Photo ID

Poll workers will ask you to show a current and valid photo ID when you vote at your polling place. The following are valid and current forms of ID:

- › RI driver's license
- › US passport
- › ID issued by the US government or State of Rhode Island (such as a RIPTA bus pass)
- › ID card issued by an educational institution in the United States (a student ID)
- › US military identification card
- › Government issued medical card
- › RI Voter ID card

If you do not bring an acceptable photo ID to the polls, you have the legal right to cast a provisional ballot. **You will never be turned away at the polls.** Your provisional ballot application will be reviewed by your local board of canvassers to determine if you are eligible to vote, and if so, your vote will be counted.

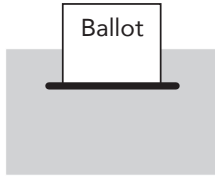
Get a free Voter ID card

If you do not have any of the forms of valid identification listed above, we will provide you with one at no cost. You must provide one of these forms of acceptable IDs/documents in order to obtain a Voter ID card:

- › Employee identification card
- › Utility bill
- › Credit or debit card
- › Military identification card
- › Bank statement
- › Health club identification card
- › Insurance plan identification card
- › Public housing identification card

Contact the Department of State's Elections Division at 401-222-2340 or elections@sos.ri.gov for more information.

Ways to Vote



Vote at the Polls



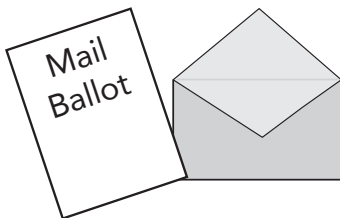
Find your polling place
vote.ri.gov



Check polling place hours
See **page 20** for local board of canvassers
contact information.



Bring a valid photo ID.



Vote by Mail

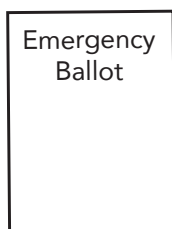
If you know you can't vote on Election Day at the polls, you
can still be a voter by mail!

Find Mail Ballot Applications:

<http://www.sos.ri.gov/divisions/elections/Voters/vote-by-mail>
or at your local board of canvassers

Return the application to your local board of canvassers
where you are registered to vote by **October 18**.

See **page 20** for contact information.



Vote by Emergency Ballot

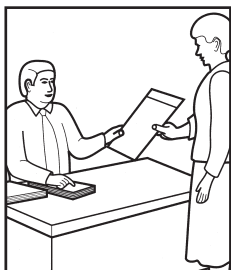
If something unexpected happens and you realize you can't
vote on Election Day at the polls, you can still be a voter!

Find Emergency Ballot Applications:

Contact your local board of canvassers where you are
registered to vote between **October 19 - November 7**.

See **page 20** for contact information.

Voting at the Polls



Get your ballot

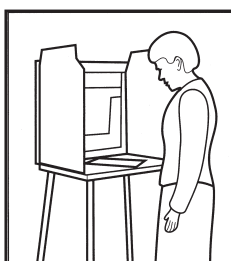
Check in with poll workers by giving your name, address and photo ID.

They will locate your name and ask you to sign a ballot application.

The poll workers will initial your signature and provide you with the appropriate ballot and a secrecy folder. The secrecy folder helps to ensure the privacy of your election choice(s).

Different address?

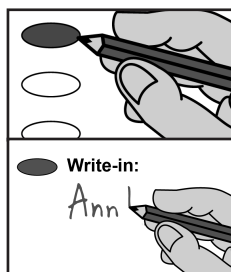
If you live at a different address from the one on the voting list, you will need to fill out and sign an additional affirmation form before voting.



Go to the voting booth

Use the pen provided in the voting booth.

Important: Be sure to check both sides of the ballot. Some elected offices or questions may appear on the back of the ballot.



Mark your choice(s)

Fill in the oval to the left of your choice(s).

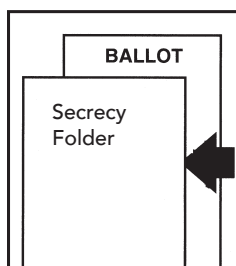
To vote for a write-in candidate

To vote for a candidate whose name is not on the ballot:

Fill in the oval to the left of "Write-in" and print the name clearly in the box.

! If you make a mistake when marking the ballot

If you make a mistake, do not cross out on the ballot or try to insert it into the tabulator. Instead, bring your ballot to a poll worker and ask for a new one to start over.



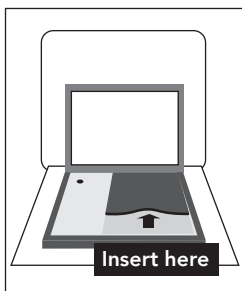
Protect your privacy

Place the ballot in the secrecy folder.

Proceed to the machine known as the ballot tabulator.

? Provisional Voting

If you believe you were left off the voter list, do not have an acceptable form of photo identification, or if you are otherwise prevented from voting, you will be allowed to cast a provisional ballot. This means that your vote may be counted by your local board of canvassers after Election Day.



Counting your vote

Remove your ballot from the secrecy folder and insert your ballot into the tabulator.

You will be able to see what number voter you are at your polling place.

Place the empty secrecy folder on top of the tabulator and proudly wear your "I voted" sticker.

Accessibility and Voting Assistance at the Polls

Accessible polling place for elderly, disabled and visually impaired voters

Each polling place will have at least one handicapped-accessible voting booth designated for priority use by voters over 65 years of age or have some disability.

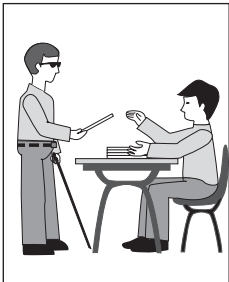
Voters who have a medical disability which would cause the voter to experience severe discomfort by standing in line will be allowed to move to the front of the line.

Each polling place will also be equipped with a sheet magnifier to assist voters who are visually impaired.

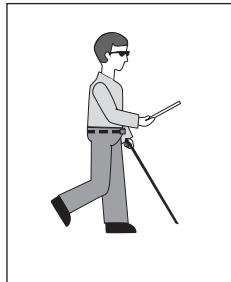
! If the polling place you are assigned to is inaccessible, you should notify your local board of canvassers at least 5 days in advance and they will arrange an alternate means for you to cast your vote.

Using the accessible AutoMark equipment

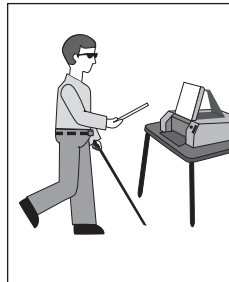
When you arrive at your polling place, you will proceed to the check-in table and tell poll workers that you wish to use the AutoMark to assist in marking your ballot.



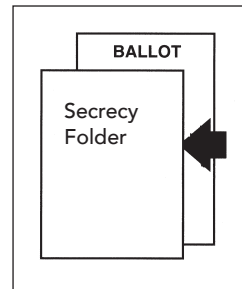
Receive ballot and secrecy folder from the poll worker.



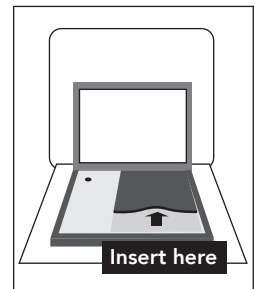
Go to the AutoMark booth to mark your ballot in private.



Mark your ballot by placing it into the AutoMark unit. Follow the instructions and make selections by using the keypad or touchscreen.



Insert your ballot into the secrecy folder and go to the vote tabulator.



Remove ballot from the secrecy folder and insert your ballot into the vote tabulator.

Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

In accordance with the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and state law, an accessible voting unit (AutoMark) will be available at each polling place for every primary and election.

All registered voters are automatically entitled to use the accessible voting equipment located at each polling place. No special applications are required.

State Referenda Questions

The Rhode Island Constitution requires that voters directly make certain decisions instead of the General Assembly: for example, any changes or amendments to the Rhode Island Constitution. A referendum is the way our legislative body (the General Assembly or town or city council) asks voters to approve or reject proposals such as constitutional amendments, long-term borrowings like bonds, and special laws affecting some cities and towns (like municipal charters) or the expansion of gambling.

The referendum is always asked as a question to voters. There are a total of seven statewide questions that will appear on the back of your ballot. Below are the two statewide questions regarding the state's constitution that voters will need to approve or reject. The following pages offer more detail on each question.

1. STATE CONSTITUTIONAL APPROVAL

*Approval of an act authorizing state-operated casino gaming at "Twin River-Tiverton" in the Town of Tiverton
Section 22 of Article VI of the Constitution*

Shall an act be approved which would authorize a facility owned by Twin River-Tiverton, LLC, located in the Town of Tiverton at the intersection of William S. Canning Boulevard and Stafford Road, to be licensed as a pari-mutuel facility and offer state-operated video-lottery games and state-operated casino gaming, such as table games?

2. AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE

*Restoration of ethics commission jurisdiction over General Assembly members
Section 8 of Article III and Section 5 of Article VI of the Constitution*

Section 8 of Article III of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 8. Ethics commission – Code of ethics. – The general assembly shall establish an independent non-partisan ethics commission which shall adopt a code of ethics including, but not limited to, provisions on conflicts of interest, confidential information, use of position, contracts with government agencies and financial disclosure. The assent of two-thirds (2/3) of the members appointed shall be required for the adoption for every rule or regulation. All elected and appointed officials and employees of state and local government, of boards, commissions and agencies shall be subject to the code of ethics. The ethics commission shall have the authority to investigate alleged violations of the code of ethics, including acts otherwise protected by Article VI, Section 5, and to impose penalties, as provided by law, and the Any sanction issued against any party by the ethics commission shall be appealable to the judicial branch as provided by law. The commission shall have the power to remove from office officials who are not otherwise subject to impeachment, or expulsion as provided by Article VI, Section 7.

Section 5 of Article VI of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 5. Immunities of general assembly members. – The persons of all members of the general assembly shall be exempt from arrest and their estates from attachment in any civil action, during the session of the general assembly, and two days before the commencement and two days after the termination thereof, and all process served contrary hereto shall be void. For any speech in debate in either house, no member shall be questioned in any other place, except by the ethics commission as set forth in Article III, Section 8.

About Question 1:

What it will look like on the ballot:

1. STATE CONSTITUTIONAL APPROVAL

Approval of an act authorizing state-operated casino gaming at "Twin River-Tiverton" in the Town of Tiverton

Section 22 of Article VI of the Constitution

Shall an act be approved which would authorize a facility owned by Twin River-Tiverton, LLC, located in the Town of Tiverton at the intersection of William S. Canning Boulevard and Stafford Road, to be licensed as a pari-mutuel facility and offer state-operated video-lottery games and state-operated casino gaming, such as table games?

☐ **Approve**

☐ **Reject**

Approve

Your vote to "Approve" this question means you want to allow a new state-operated casino, including video-lottery games and table games, to be built in Tiverton, at the intersection of William S. Canning Boulevard and Stafford Road.

Reject

Your vote to "Reject" this question means you do not want to allow a new state-operated casino, including video-lottery games and table games, to be built in Tiverton, at the intersection of William S. Canning Boulevard and Stafford Road.

Explanation and purpose of Question 1:

This question is asking voters to allow a new state-operated casino to be built in Tiverton at the intersection of William S. Canning Boulevard and Stafford Road. Approval will require that voters in Tiverton and throughout the State of Rhode Island vote in favor of building the casino. The casino would be owned by Twin River-Tiverton and would be licensed and regulated by the State.

The Twin River-Tiverton Casino would include video-lottery games and table games and replace what is currently Newport Grand.

This question is before the voters because the Rhode Island Constitution requires that voters approve any expansion of gambling. More specifically, Article VI, Section 22 of the Rhode Island Constitution provides that "no act expanding the types of gambling permitted within any city or town in the State of Rhode Island shall take effect until it has been approved by a majority of those electors voting in a statewide referendum and by the majority of those electors voting in a referendum in the municipality in which the proposed gambling would be allowed."

How much money will be borrowed?

The referendum would not authorize any borrowing.

About Question 2:

What it will look like on the ballot:

2. AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE

Restoration of ethics commission jurisdiction over General Assembly members

Section 8 of Article III and Section 5 of Article VI of the Constitution

Section 8 of Article III of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 8. Ethics commission – Code of ethics. – The general assembly shall establish an independent non-partisan ethics commission which shall adopt a code of ethics including, but not limited to, provisions on conflicts of interest, confidential information, use of position, contracts with government agencies and financial disclosure. The assent of two-thirds (2/3) of the members appointed shall be required for the adoption for every rule or regulation. All elected and appointed officials and employees of state and local government, of boards, commissions and agencies shall be subject to the code of ethics. The ethics commission shall have the authority to investigate alleged violations of the code of ethics, including acts otherwise protected by Article VI, Section 5, and to impose penalties, as provided by law; and the Any sanction issued against any party by the ethics commission shall be appealable to the judicial branch as provided by law. The commission shall have the power to remove from office officials who are not otherwise subject to impeachment, or expulsion as provided by Article VI, Section 7.

Section 5 of Article VI of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 5. Immunities of general assembly members. – The persons of all members of the general assembly shall be exempt from arrest and their estates from attachment in any civil action, during the session of the general assembly, and two days before the commencement and two days after the termination thereof, and all process served contrary hereto shall be void. For any speech in debate in either house, no member shall be questioned in any other place, except by the ethics commission as set forth in Article III, Section 8.

Approval of the amendments to Section 8 of Article III and Section 5 of Article VI of the Rhode Island Constitution set forth above will restore the jurisdiction of the ethics commission over members of the General Assembly.

☐ Approve

☐ Reject

Approve

Your vote to “Approve” means that the Rhode Island Ethics Commission will have the power to hear ethics complaints against State Senators and State Representatives.

Reject

Your vote to “Reject” means that State Senators and State Representatives will continue to have immunity from Ethics Commission prosecution in cases involving their “core legislative functions” and the Rhode Island Ethics Commission will not have the power to hear ethics complaints against them.

Explanation and purpose of Question 2:

This Constitutional Amendment would restore the Rhode Island Ethics Commission’s power to hear ethics complaints concerning members of the Rhode Island General Assembly (State Senators and State Representatives). The new text to be added to the amendment is underlined in the ballot question. Text that will be deleted is crossed out.

The Ethics Commission is an independent, non-partisan body created in 1986 by Rhode Island voters to investigate the actions of Rhode Island officials accused of violating the Code of Ethics, and punish those found guilty of violating the Code of Ethics. In 2009, the Rhode Island Supreme Court ruled that the “speech in debate” clause of the Rhode Island Constitution in Article VI, Section 5, gave lawmakers immunity from Ethics Commission prosecution in cases involving their “core legislative functions.” Approval of this question would restore the Ethics Commission’s constitutional authority to police ethics violations by members of the General Assembly. It would also require the Commission to approve new rules by a two-thirds (2/3) majority.

How much money will be borrowed?

The referendum would not authorize any borrowing.

State Bond Referenda Questions

Referenda Questions 3 – 7 involve authorizing the State to borrow money through bonds and temporary notes to make capital investments. ([Chapter 142 – Public Laws 2016](#))

What is a bond?

A bond is like a mortgage or loan. Just like people might borrow money to get an education or buy a home, the State is asking to borrow money from a lender with the promise to pay it back over time with interest. These questions are asking you to agree that we should borrow to invest in different areas of our state.

Here is a table of the bond proposals and their associated costs including principal and interest. Just as with a mortgage or loan, the total cost includes the principal amount borrowed and the amount of interest paid over the term of the bond. The total cost also includes any fees, printing, or underwriting expenses associated with issuing the bonds.

STATE BOND QUESTIONS	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	TOTAL COSTS
3. Veterans Home Bonds	\$27,000,000	\$16,281,371	\$43,281,371
4. Leveraging Higher Education to Create 21st Century Jobs Bonds	\$45,500,000	\$27,437,126	\$72,937,126
5. Port Infrastructure Bonds	\$70,000,000	\$42,210,962	\$112,210,962
6. Green Economy Bonds	\$35,000,000	\$21,105,481	\$56,105,481
7. Housing Opportunity Bonds	\$50,000,000	\$30,150,687	\$80,150,687
TOTAL BORROWING COSTS FOR ALL REFERENDA	\$227,500,000	\$137,185,627	\$364,685,627

The total costs above are only estimates based on 20-year loans and an interest rate of 5%.

On Election Day, you will be asked:

“Shall the action of the General Assembly, by an act passed at the January 2016 session, authorizing the issuance of bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes of the state for the capital projects and in the amount with respect to each such project listed below (Questions 3-7) be approved, and the issuance of bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes authorized in accordance with the provisions of said act?”, followed by each bond question.

The following pages provide more information about each of the bond questions including their total estimated cost and project timetable. These estimated costs assume the bonds are gradually paid off with level payments over a twenty-year period.

What it will look like on the ballot:

☐ **Reject**

Your vote to "Approve" means that you support the State issuing \$27,000,000 in general obligation bonds to complete the construction of a new Veterans Home and support renovations of existing Veterans facilities in Rhode Island.

Your vote to “Reject” means that you are against the State issuing \$27,000,000 in general obligation bonds to complete the construction of a new Veterans Home and support renovations of existing Veterans facilities in Rhode Island.

Now the State needs to authorize an additional \$27 million to complete the new Veterans Home project. The additional cost is a result of inflation in materials and labor since 2012. More significantly, the change in the federal guidelines for reimbursement of state veterans home construction has added more costly requirements for building the new Veterans Home. If this \$27 million is authorized and added to the previous \$33.5 million borrowed, the state would borrow a total of \$60.5 million for the new Veteran's Home.

\$27,000,000

The construction of a new Veterans Home is well under way and is expected to be completed in or about Fall 2017.

The Rhode Island Office of Veterans Affairs estimates that the useful life of the new Veterans Home building will be approximately 50 years.

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$26,892,000	\$16,216,246	\$108,000	\$65,125	\$27,000,000	\$16,281,371	\$43,281,371

**** Assumes an interest rate of 5%, with bonds amortized with level payments over 20 years.**

About Question 4:

What it will look like on the ballot:

4. LEVERAGING HIGHER EDUCATION TO CREATE 21ST CENTURY JOBS BONDS - \$45,500,000

To make capital investments in higher education-related projects, to be allocated as follows:

- (a) University of Rhode Island College of Engineering
\$25,500,000
- (b) University of Rhode Island Affiliated Innovation
Campus Program \$20,000,000

☐ Approve

☐ Reject

Approve

Your vote to "Approve" means that you support the state issuing \$45,500,000 in general obligation bonds to fund higher education-related construction projects at the University of Rhode Island.

Reject

Your vote to "Reject" means that you are against the state issuing \$45,500,000 in general obligation bonds to fund higher education-related construction projects at the University of Rhode Island.

Explanation and purpose of Question 4:

These bonds would provide funds to the State of Rhode Island to pay for higher education-related construction projects. The State intends to use \$25,500,000 from these bonds to renovate and construct an addition to Bliss Hall, one of the oldest buildings at the University of Rhode Island College of Engineering. This renovation and construction is the continuation of comprehensive improvements to the University of Rhode Island College of Engineering.

An additional \$20,000,000 from these bonds will be used to bring the University of Rhode Island together with businesses by building an innovation campus that supports cutting-edge research into products, services and businesses that will build Rhode Island's economy. An innovation campus must involve the University of Rhode Island, exceed the state's investment with private and/or federal funds, include at least one business partner, and act as a catalyst for a substantial number of new jobs at a variety of skill levels.

How much money will be borrowed?

\$45,500,000

Project time table:

The renovation and construction of an addition to Bliss Hall, as well as the construction of an innovation campus, is expected to commence on or about July 1, 2017 and be completed on or about June 30, 2021.

Useful life:

The Rhode Island Board of Education estimates that the useful life of the renovated Bliss Hall and addition, as well as the innovation campus will be approximately 45 years.

Total cost:

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$45,318,000	\$27,327,377	\$182,000	\$109,749	\$45,500,000	\$27,437,126	\$72,937,126

* Cost of issuance estimated at 0.4 % of principal issued.

** Assumes an interest rate of 5%, with bonds amortized with level payments over 20 years.

About Question 5:

What it will look like on the ballot:

5. PORT INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS - \$70,000,000

For port infrastructure projects, to be allocated as follows:

- (a) Port of Davisville Infrastructure at Quonset \$50,000,000
- (b) Port of Providence Infrastructure \$20,000,000

- ☐ Approve
- ☐ Reject

Approve

Your vote to "Approve" means that you support the state issuing \$70,000,000 in general obligation bonds to fund improvements to the Port of Davisville at Quonset and the Port of Providence.

Reject

Your vote to "Reject" means that you are against the state issuing \$70,000,000 in general obligation bonds to fund improvements to the Port of Davisville at Quonset and the Port of Providence.

Explanation and purpose of Question 5:

These bonds would be issued to fund improvements to the Port of Davisville at the Quonset Business Park and the Port of Providence. The State intends to use \$50,000,000 to modernize the infrastructure and fund repairs at Quonset's Port of Davisville, including Pier 2. The investment would modernize Pier 2, which was built in 1956 with a design life of 50 years. Quonset's Pier 2 handles heavy cargoes like wind turbine components and other large specialty cargoes. The pier is essential to the Port's automobile import business, which is consistently one of the top ten in North America.

The remaining \$20,000,000 would be used to purchase land and fund infrastructure improvements to increase terminal capacity at the Port of Providence. The investment would expand current port operations by acquiring and improving additional land to meet the region's shipping needs.

How much money will be borrowed?

\$70,000,000

Project time table:

The infrastructure modernization and repairs to the Port of Davisville at Quonset, including Pier 2, is expected to commence in or about 2017 and be completed in or about 2022. The increase of terminal capacity at the Port of Providence by purchasing up to 25 acres of land (which will be owned by the state) and associated infrastructure improvements is expected to commence in or about 2017 and be completed in or about 2022.

Useful life:

The Quonset Development Corporation estimates the useful life of the facilities, improvements and other property resulting from infrastructure modernization and repairs to the Port of Davisville at Quonset, including Pier 2, to be 50 years until approximately 2072.

The Rhode Island Executive Office of Commerce estimates the useful life of the facilities, improvements and other property resulting from the increased terminal capacity at the Port of Providence, to be 50 years.

Total cost:

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$69,720,000	\$42,042,118	\$280,000	\$168,844	\$70,000,000	\$42,210,962	\$112,210,962

* Cost of issuance estimated at 0.4 % of principal issued.

** Assumes an interest rate of 5%, with bonds amortized with level payments over 20 years.

About Question 6:

What it will look like on the ballot:

6. GREEN ECONOMY BONDS - \$35,000,000

For environmental and recreational purposes, to be allocated as follows:

- (a) Historic State Park Development Program \$4,000,000
- (b) State Land Acquisition Program \$4,000,000
- (c) State Bikeway Development Program \$10,000,000
- (d) Brownfield Remediation and Economic Development \$5,000,000
- (e) Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program \$3,000,000
- (f) Local Recreation Development Matching Grant Program \$5,000,000
- (g) Local Land Acquisition Matching Grant Program \$4,000,000

☐ **Approve**

☐ **Reject**

Approve

Your vote to "Approve" means that you support the state issuing \$35,000,000 in general obligation bonds to invest in the environment and recreation.

Reject

Your vote to "Reject" means that you are against the state issuing \$35,000,000 in general obligation bonds to invest in the environment and recreation.

Explanation and purpose of Question 6:

These bonds would be issued to allow the State to invest in the environment and recreation. The \$35,000,000 will be allocated as outlined below to improve state parks, preserve open space, develop bikeways, clean up contaminated land, reduce stormwater pollution, support municipalities in development of recreational facilities and also to purchase open space and parklands.

Specifically, approval of this question will provide:

- (a) \$4,000,000 for major capital improvements to State properties, including Fort Adams State Park, Brenton Point, Colt State Park and Goddard Memorial State Park. Specific projects include major renovations to the Goddard State Park bathing pavilion, improvements to the stone barn at Colt State Park, and continued improvements to public facilities at Fort Adams State Park.
- (b) \$4,000,000 for the State Land Acquisition Program allowing the state to acquire fee simple interest or conservation easements to open space, farmland, watershed, and recreation lands. The State would invest these funds in the preservation of iconic, scenic and sensitive natural and recreational resources including gems such as Rocky Point in Warwick and the Blue Pond Management Area in Hopkinton to provide opportunities for Rhode Islanders and our visitors to recreate, enjoy nature, hike, fish and hunt. Funds are matched by federal, local and non-profit sources with every state dollar being matched by 3 other dollars.
- (c) \$10,000,000 for the State to design and construct bikeways. Projects to be funded under this program would include high priority bikeway connections such as the Blackstone Bikeway and South County Bikeway.
- (d) \$5,000,000 for the cleanup of former industrial or commercial sites that may be contaminated by hazardous waste or pollution. Provides up to 80 percent matching grants to public, private, and/or non-profit entities for brownfield remediation projects. Recently funded projects include South Street Landing and Paragon Mills in Providence and the Westerly Higher Education and Job Skills Center.

(e) \$3,000,000 for a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program. Renews funding to an existing program that provides up to 75 percent matching grants for public, private and/or non-profit entities for projects that reduce stormwater pollution. These funds would be used to clean up our waterways and reduce stormwater pollution that contributes to beach and shellfish closures and degrades waters used for drinking water supply and recreation.

(f) \$5,000,000 for up to 80 percent in matching grants to municipalities to develop public recreational facilities and up to 50 percent in matching grants to acquire recreational lands.

(g) \$4,000,000 for 50 percent matching grants to municipalities, local land trusts and non-profit organizations to acquire fee-simple interest, development rights, or conservation easements on open space lands in Rhode Island. Past local open space properties preserved through this program include 175 acres of conservation land in Coventry, 40 acres of significant habitat and drinking water supply in North Smithfield, and a 90-acre open space and farmland parcel in Tiverton.

How much money will be borrowed?

\$35,000,000

Project time table:

The program to fund investments in the environment and recreation is expected to commence in fiscal year 2018 and be completed by fiscal year 2022.

Useful life:

The Department of Environmental Management estimates that the useful life of the enhancements and renovations to be made to park and recreational infrastructure and bikeway improvements throughout the State of Rhode Island to be 30 to 50 years.

The Department of Environmental Management estimates that the useful life of open space and parkland preservation; brownfields restoration; and stormwater pollution prevention to be permanent.

Total cost:

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$34,860,000	\$21,021,059	\$140,000	\$84,422	\$35,000,000	\$21,105,481	\$56,105,481

* Cost of issuance estimated at 0.4 % of principal issued.

** Assumes an interest rate of 5%, with bonds amortized with level payments over 20 years.

About Question 7:

What it will look like on the ballot:

7. HOUSING OPPORTUNITY BONDS - \$50,000,000

For affordable housing, urban revitalization, and blight remediation, to be allocated as follows:

- (a) Affordable Housing Development
\$40,000,000
- (b) Urban Revitalization and Blight Remediation
\$10,000,000

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject

Approve

Your vote to "Approve" means that you support the State issuing \$50,000,000 in general obligation bonds to help fund the construction of affordable housing, support urban revitalization and blight remediation.

Reject

Your vote to "Reject" means that you are against the State issuing \$50,000,000 in general obligation bonds to help fund the construction of affordable housing, support urban revitalization and blight remediation.

Explanation and purpose of Question 7:

These funds would support the construction of affordable housing, support urban revitalization and blight remediation. The State will use \$40,000,000 to develop and implement affordable housing opportunity programs through the redevelopment of existing structures and/or new construction. The remaining \$10,000,000 would be used to provide funding to develop and implement programs for the improvement of properties that are blighted or in need of revitalization, including residential and commercial properties and public and community spaces.

Funding from past affordable housing bonds has been used to create over 1,900 affordable homes and apartments for families, seniors and veterans in 31 communities across Rhode Island.

How much money will be borrowed?

\$50,000,000

Project time table:

The redevelopment of existing structures and/or the new construction of affordable housing is expected to commence in 2017 and to be completed by 2023. The improvement of blighted properties, including residential and commercial properties as well as public and community spaces, is expected to commence in 2017 and to be completed by 2021.

Useful life:

The Housing Resources Commission estimates the useful life of the redeveloped and/or newly constructed affordable housing to be a minimum of thirty years. Rhode Island Housing estimates that the useful life of renovated blighted properties, including residential and commercial properties as well as public and community spaces to be a minimum of thirty years.

Total cost:

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$49,800,000	\$30,030,084	\$200,000	\$120,603	\$50,000,000	\$30,150,687	\$80,150,687

* Cost of issuance estimated at 0.4 % of principal issued.

** Assumes an interest rate of 5%, with bonds amortized with level payments over 20 years.

Your Voter Checklist

You can use this checklist to keep track of where and how you will vote.
Remember, your vote is private and you do not need to share it with anyone.

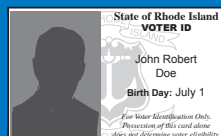
My Polling Location is _____

Officials

Congressional	_____
State Senate	_____
State Representative	_____
Local Races	_____
Local Races	_____
Local Races	_____

State Referenda Questions

Question 1	<input type="radio"/> Approve	<input type="radio"/> Reject
Question 2	<input type="radio"/> Approve	<input type="radio"/> Reject
Question 3	<input type="radio"/> Approve	<input type="radio"/> Reject
Question 4	<input type="radio"/> Approve	<input type="radio"/> Reject
Question 5	<input type="radio"/> Approve	<input type="radio"/> Reject
Question 6	<input type="radio"/> Approve	<input type="radio"/> Reject
Question 7	<input type="radio"/> Approve	<input type="radio"/> Reject



**Do not forget your
Photo ID**

Local Boards of Canvassers

Barrington Town Hall
283 County Rd. 02806
247-1900 x4

Bristol Town Hall
10 Court St. 02809
253-7000

Burrillville Town Hall
105 Harrisville Main St.
Harrisville 02830
568-4300

Central Falls City Hall
580 Broad St. 02863
727-7450

Charlestown Town Hall
4540 South County Trl. 02813
364-1200

Coventry Town Hall
1670 Flat River Rd. 02816
822-9150

Cranston City Hall
869 Park Ave. 02910
780-3126

Cumberland Town Hall
45 Broad St. 02864
728-2400

East Greenwich Town Hall
125 Main St.
P.O. Box 111 02818
886-8603

East Providence City Hall
145 Taunton Ave. 02914
435-7502

Exeter Town Hall
675 Ten Rod Rd. 02822
294-2287

Foster Town Hall
181 Howard Hill Rd. 02825
392-9201

Glocester Town Hall
1145 Putnam Pike
P.O. Box B, Chepachet 02814
568-6206 x0

Hopkinton Town Hall
1 Town House Rd. 02833
377-7777

Jamestown Town Hall
93 Narragansett Ave. 02835
423-9804

Johnston Town Hall
1385 Hartford Ave. 02919
553-8856

Lincoln Town Hall
100 Old River Rd.
P.O. Box 100 02865
333-1140

Little Compton Town Hall
40 Commons
P.O. Box 226 02837
635-4400

Middletown Town Hall
350 East Main Rd. 02842
849-5540

Narragansett Town Hall
25 Fifth Ave. 02882
782-0625

Newport City Hall
43 Broadway 02840
845-5386

New Shoreham Town Hall
16 Old Town Rd.
P.O. Box 220 02807
466-3200

North Kingstown Town Hall
80 Boston Neck Rd. 02852
294-3331 x128

North Providence Town Hall
2000 Smith St. 02911
232-0900 x234

North Smithfield Municipal Annex
575 Smithfield Rd. 02896
767-2200

Pawtucket City Hall
137 Roosevelt Ave. 02860
722-1637

Portsmouth Town Hall
2200 East Main Rd. 02871
683-3157

Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance St. 02903
421-0495

Richmond Town Hall
5 Richmond Townhouse Rd.
Wyoming 02898
539-9000 x9

Scituate Town Hall
195 Danielson Pike
P.O. Box 328, N. Scituate 02857
647-7466

Smithfield Town Hall
64 Farnum Pike 02917
233-1000 x112

South Kingstown Town Hall
180 High St.
Wakefield 02879
789-9331 x1231

Tiverton Town Hall
343 Highland Rd. 02878
625-6703

Warren Town Hall
514 Main St. 02885
245-7340 x4

Warwick City Hall
3275 Post Rd. 02886
738-2000

West Greenwich Town Hall
280 Victory Hwy. 02817
392-3800

West Warwick Town Hall
1170 Main St. 02893
822-9201

Westerly Town Hall
45 Broad St. 02891
348-2503

Woonsocket City Hall
169 Main St.
P.O. Box B 02895
767-9223

State Board of Elections

50 Branch Ave., Providence, RI 02904

401-222-2345

Definitions of Terms

BONDS

A bond is written evidence of the State's obligation to repay money it has borrowed with interest at specified rates and maturity dates. *See questions 3-7.*

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

Money spent on capital assets, or items designed to last more than one year, are considered capital investments. These assets may include buildings, land, roads, and even information technology systems. *See questions 3-7.*

CASINO GAMING

Casino gaming is any and all table and casino-style games played with cards, dice or equipment, for money, credit, or any representative of value; including, but not limited to roulette, blackjack, big six, craps, poker, baccarat, pai gow, any banking or percentage game, or any other game or device included within the definition of Class III gaming as that term is defined in Section 2703(8) of Title 25 of the United States Code and which is approved by the State of Rhode Island through the Lottery Division. *See question 1.*

CONSTITUTION

The Rhode Island Constitution is the fundamental law of the State of Rhode Island. It frames and provides the basic principles which are to regulate the relations of the citizens of the State of Rhode Island, the State of Rhode Island and the branches of the government of the State of Rhode Island. *See questions 1-2.*

CONSERVATION EASEMENT

A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. *See question 6.*

ELECTOR

A qualified voter in an election.

ETHICS COMMISSION

The Ethics Commission is an independent, non-partisan body created in 1986 by Rhode Island voters to investigate the actions of Rhode Island officials accused of violating the Code of Ethics, and punish those found guilty of violating the Code of Ethics. *See question 2.*

FEE SIMPLE INTEREST

A Fee Simple Interest describes the greatest possible degree of ownership in a property. *See question 6.*

FISCAL YEAR

A fiscal year is a period of twelve consecutive months which serves as an accounting period for financial reporting purposes. The State's fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. Therefore, for example, fiscal year 2017 is the period commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

A general obligation bond is a bond which is secured by the full faith and credit and taxing power of the State. *See questions 3-7.*

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure systems, such as public transit, education, water and telecommunications systems, are the basic physical facilities and organizational structures needed for the operation of a municipality or state.

ISSUING BONDS

To "issue" bonds means to sell, deliver, and receive payment for bonds. The State generally issues bonds for particular projects upon determining the amount of cash necessary to implement such projects. *See questions 3-7.*

LICENSED VIDEO-LOTTERY RETAILER

A business or establishment that has been licensed or approved by the Lottery Division to run video-lotteries in the State of Rhode Island. *See question 1.*

NEWPORT GRAND

Newport Grand means Newport Grand, LLC, a Rhode Island limited-liability company, successor to Newport Grand Jai Alai, LLC, and each permitted successor to and assignee of Newport Grand, LLC under the Newport Grand Master Contract, including, but not limited to, Premier Entertainment II, LLC and/or Twin River-Tiverton, LLC, provided it is licensed as a pari-mutuel licensee, as defined in § 42-61.2-1 et seq., by the Department of Business Regulation, Division of Racing and Athletics, and licensed to offer state-operated video lottery games and state-operated casino gaming by the Lottery Division of the Department of Revenue; provided, further, however, where the context indicates that the term is referring to the physical facility, then it shall mean the gaming and entertainment facility located at 150 Admiral Kalbfus Road, Newport, Rhode Island. *See question 1.*

PARI-MUTUEL FACILITY

Pari-mutuel (or mutual betting) is a form of betting in which all bets of a particular type are placed together in a pool. After the operator's commission has been subtracted, payoff odds are calculated by sharing the pool among all winning bets. *See question 1.*

REFERENDUM

The Rhode Island Constitution requires that voters directly make certain decisions instead of the General Assembly. A referendum is the way our legislative body (the General Assembly or town or city council) asks voters to make those decisions on proposals such as constitutional amendments, long-term borrowings like bonds, special laws affecting some cities and towns (like municipal charters) or the expansion of gambling.

The referendum is always asked as a question for voters to approve or reject. Referenda is the plural form of the word referendum. *See questions 1-7.*

REFUNDING BONDS

Sometimes, after bonds have been issued by the State, interest rates fall and make it cheaper to refinance existing debt. When that is the case, the state asks voters to approve the issuance of refunding bonds. This means that the State can refinance existing bonds at lower interest rates by calling in and paying off the existing bonds and refinancing them at lower interest rates.

When the state issues refunding bonds, it is a similar action as when individuals refinance a mortgage – both save money. *See questions 3-7.*

STATE

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

TABLE GAME OR TABLE GAMING

Table game or table gaming means that type of casino activity in which games are played for cash or chips representing cash, using cards, dice or equipment and conducted by one or more live persons. *See question 1.*

TEMPORARY NOTES

Each borrowing or bond question also authorizes the State to provide short-term financing, in the form of temporary notes, before bonds are issued so that money is available for projects needing immediate funding. *See questions 3-7.*

TWIN RIVER-TIVERTON

Twin River-Tiverton means Twin River-Tiverton, LLC and/or its successor in interest by reason of the acquisition of the stock, membership interests, or substantially all of the assets of such entity. *See question 1.*

USEFUL LIFE

The period of time an asset is expected to be usable for the purpose it was acquired, built or established. It is good financial practice to issue bonds for projects with a long useful life. *See questions 3-7.*

VIDEO-LOTTERY GAMES

Video-lottery games mean lottery games played on video-lottery terminals controlled by the Lottery Division of the Department of Revenue. *See question 1.*

VIDEO-LOTTERY TERMINAL

Video-lottery terminal means any electronic computerized video game machine that, upon the insertion of cash, is available to play a video game authorized by the Lottery Division, and which uses a video display and microprocessors in which by chance, the player may receive free games or credit that can be redeemed for cash. The term does not include a machine that directly dispenses coins, cash or tokens. *See question 1.*



YOUR GOVERNMENT & YOUR VOTE

You may think that politics doesn't affect you all that much, but government policies impact your everyday life. Depending on which elected office has oversight on issues important to you, voting is the easiest way for you to have some control over important policy decisions. From education to transportation, your vote for leaders in local, state and federal government matters.

ELECTED OFFICES



CITY/TOWN

LOCAL

MAYOR

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

CITY/TOWN COUNCIL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

RHODE ISLAND

STATE

GOVERNOR

GENERAL OFFICERS

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

STATE SENATORS

UNITED STATES

FEDERAL

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

US REPRESENTATIVES

US SENATORS

CHOOSE THE ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU



EDUCATION

Debt reduction for student loans

Higher investment in K-12 schools

Charter Schools



ENVIRONMENT

Reduce carbon emissions

Expand recycling efforts in my neighborhood

Ban smoking at beaches



PUBLIC SAFETY

Gun rights

Dangerous intersection needs a traffic signal

Install better lighting in neighborhood park



ECONOMY

Zoning laws

Housing affordability

Taxes



TRANSPORTATION

More bike paths and pedestrian friendly walkways

Better and more efficient public transportation

Ensure ride sharing services are safe

FIND THE ELECTIONS THAT NEED YOUR VOTE



This infographic brought to you by Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea